

Cranberry Chronicle

NEWS OF CRANBERRY HOUSE AND GREAT CRANBERRY ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY • AUGUST 2021



World War II and Great Cranberry Island

PHIL WHITNEY



World War II was truly a world war, encompassing six of the seven continents, and nearly all the nations on those continents. America was obviously in the forefront of fighting the war, on two fronts, in the Pacific Theatre and in the Atlantic Theatre. As time relentlessly passes on, there are very few people remaining who have direct memories of the war or its ripple effects on our nation. Not many living today realize both American coastlines, and especially the East Coast, saw extensive wartime activity. US ships were torpedoed by German U-Boats in sight of land and German spies were landed ashore at isolated coastal locations. There was close screening by the authorities of residents landing at mainland ports from offshore islands. U-Boats were brazenly surfacing and sailing in close proximity to the coast and there was even a submarine shoot-down of a US Navy sub-detector blimp within view of land. Are you surprised to learn all this was happening in America between 1941-1945? You may be even more surprised to learn all this happened in the Cranberry Isles region.

*US Navy recovery of the
downed K-14 blimp.*

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The following is a summary of news articles, lectures, and personal reminiscences passed along to me regarding these events. Some topics are worthy of their own individual books, and some continue to remain, inexplicably, classified by the US Government, despite extensive efforts made to access relevant files. Some may

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

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The Pool, Great Cranberry Island, June 2021

Notes of Appreciation

Maine Seacoast Mission

For transporting COVID-19 supplies and support staff to the islands to enable vaccinations for all who desired.

Cameron Frothingham and GCI School Kids

For helping to clear the Whistler Cove and Preble Cove trails after winter storms.

Karin Whitney & Ric Gaither

For setting up Christmas decorations, both exterior and interior, at Cranberry House.

Richard Beal

For Preble Cemetery assistance with tree blowdowns and fence repairs.

Earl Brechlin

For kindly providing materials related to the "WWII and Great Cranberry Island" story in this issue of the *Chronicle*.

Milestones

Passings

Janice MacAllister
11.25.20

David Westphal
12.7.20

David Bunker
1.7.21

Paul Liebow
2.1.21

Cara Spurling
2.3.21

Chris Johnston
2.5.21

Lena Mae Wallace
4.25.21

**Great Cranberry Island
Historical Society**

Great Cranberry Island Historical Society (GCIHS) collects, preserves and studies the history and genealogy of Great Cranberry and its neighboring islands, and presents diverse cultural and educational programs. GCIHS promotes a strong sense of community through its museum, archives, café, and lively arts center in the Cranberry House.

The grounds also include a public trail to the shore, three gardens, and Sammy Sanford's Cabin.

Every day during the summer, a free shuttle carries visitors from the town dock down the length of the island and back.

President's Report

PHIL WHITNEY

Thanks to generous donations from Cameron and Nancy Wood of Great Cranberry Island and Ruth Colket of Bar Harbor two more golf carts have joined our fleet.

We experienced another winter of moderate weather, including several small snowstorms, temperatures reaching zero only rarely, and many windy days. Tree blowdowns on the trails were about average. Fortunately, there was no damage around the property due to bad weather conditions. Spring weather has been slow to arrive, similarly to the past several years. But as this is written the grass is greening up, lawnmowers are heard, and construction and other outdoor activities are evident everywhere around the island.

It was a busy winter at Cranberry House. Movies were shown during the dead of winter on Saturday nights. The schedule increased to include Tuesday nights as normal heading into the spring season. Church services, streamed live from New Hampshire, were held every Sunday morning. Private karaoke parties, designed to limit attendance in accordance with pandemic restrictions, were held each Friday night. Numerous meetings rounded out activities in the Arts Center. The Events Committee resumed meetings in early March. Several interesting and varied programs are already on the calendar. Laurie Dobson has developed a lecture/discussion series. Darlene Sumner will continue coordinating an extensive schedule of kids-related activities, encompassing both crafts classes, games and outdoors-oriented programs involving the trails and beaches. The Smart Shack will also be open daily for any families' desiring to use the games and crafts. Ric Gaither will again host weekly lobstering talks and demonstrations and likewise Peter Buchsbaum will guide several nature trails walks.

Chef César Ferreira returns to operate the famous Hitty's Café. The Preble-Marr Museum, the Whales Tale Gift Shop, the Smart Shack Recreation Center and the Sea Wind 2nd Chance Shop will all re-open, probably by Memorial Day Weekend. The Cranberry Explorer shuttle will initially operate for special charters and later with a more structured schedule. Thanks to generous donations from Cameron and Nancy Wood of Great Cranberry Island and Ruth Colket of Bar Harbor two more golf carts have joined our fleet. The Blue Heron Pond is being re-stocked with (100) rainbow trout, and "Uncle" Bob Hudson plans to host some fishing classes and activities.

There have been extensive on-going construction additions and repairs around the property this winter and spring. The environmentally controlled basement addition has been completed, (*see General Manager's archives update*) effectively preserving vulnerable archival materials and doubling the square footage of basement storage and administrative operations. In the next several weeks the second-floor museum addition will be completed, again doubling the floor space to permit many additional exhibits. The cafe deck is being replaced after fourteen years of heavy use. It should be completed by Opening Day on Memorial Day Weekend. Finally, the Sea Winds 2nd Chance Shop has seen construction of a substantial addition which nearly doubles the much-needed floor space. It has also significantly improved the appearance of the



A young visitor ponders the new banner featuring Cheryl Moore's illustration of the GCIHS grounds.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

building and overall compound. Private donors funded this project. All shop sales go to support Cranberry House operations and construction projects.

The Historical Society has hired a part-time archivist, Sophie Robinson, a senior at University of Maine. She reported for work May 10th and will not only help with organizing the archives but also with setting up the museum displays for the summer, work the museum reception desk, provide support for Darlene Sumner's kids programs, and any support needed for other events. We welcome her and look forward to her contributions as a member of the Cranberry House team this season. Sadly, we lost Chris Johnston, one of our most prominent members, to cancer in February (*see separate article on page 6*). His presence at the museum reception desk and friendly, informative discussions with visitors will always be remembered.

As we crank up for another season of classes, exhibits, events, good food and outdoor activities, I encourage everyone to come visit, take a tour and see all the changes taking place. I think you will be impressed with what you see and experience. We are still the place where there is "something for everyone."

After fourteen years we have replaced the deck at Cranberry House.

PHOTO: SOPHIE ROBINSON



General Manager's Report

BEN SUMNER

**For more information
please visit:**

GCIHS.org Events Page
[**gcihs.org/events/**](https://gcihs.org/events/)

GCIHS Facebook page
[**facebook.com/
CranberryHouseGCIHS/**](https://facebook.com/CranberryHouseGCIHS/)
**for updates on these,
and other projects,
this summer and fall.**

Feel free to contact me at
[**manager@gcihs.org**](mailto:manager@gcihs.org)
**if you have any questions
or suggestions.**

Since the last edition of the *Cranberry Chronicle*, our Archives Room has been completed and is now in full functioning use. In addition to taking a major step towards protecting our collections, this has opened up additional space in the existing basement and expanded our administrative area. Separating the Archives from the rest of our facilities has already proved to be a great benefit. In January, a serious leak developed in the area of the basement that holds our sprinkler system storage tanks. This was a considerable threat to our collections had they still been stored nearby. It being January, it was a three day wait for service to assist in correcting the problem. In the meantime, our staff and volunteers worked around the clock to manage the situation and contain the leak.

Now that the Archives room is operational, our next focus in that area is to process the huge backlog of items that have been donated, but not yet accessioned into the collection. Sophie Robinson has joined us for the summer to develop her skills in archival work and help GCIHS maintain our collections properly.

Our committees are the backbone of GCIHS. The Events Committee is made up of volunteers who donate a great deal of their time approving, coordinating, and supporting activities in our Arts Center. Through the Cranberry House, the Great Cranberry Island Historical Society has provided a venue for individuals who feel or live a connection to this island to share their interests with their neighbors. The willingness to support the initiatives of those who invest themselves in new ideas is why what started as a historical museum now finds itself additionally involved to some direct degree with the support of local arts, public transportation, affordable housing, business incubation, public recreation, greenspace management, and the worldwide dissemination of our archives and publications including the *Cranberry Chronicle* at a professional level. Those initiatives can continue so long as there are dedicated individuals willing to commit to the effort and necessary support.



Sophia Robinson Intern Summer 2021

I was born and raised in Asheville, North Carolina. In March 2020, at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, I found myself migrating north.

I transferred from Western Carolina University, where I was studying History with a minor in Public History, to the University of Maine,

where I now study History with a minor in Anthropology. After college I would like to get a Master's Degree in Native American Studies and then eventually work as a historian for a museum.

In my free time I enjoy all sorts of sports, from softball and tennis to rock climbing and hiking. I like to spend all the time I can outside with my dog going on hikes and finding new adventures. I keep to

my historical roots by seeking adventures with a nice historical story to go along with it!

I am very excited to be spending my summer here on Great Cranberry Island and look forward to discovering the history of this great island!

Remembering Chris Johnston

PHIL WHITNEY

Cranberry Island summer resident and GCIHS Trustee, Chris Johnston, passed away in February 2021 after a lengthy battle with cancer. He served his country in the US Army during the Vietnam War and was a proud patriot throughout his life. After his military service, he made a career in the rapidly developing computer technology field. He first came to Cranberry Island in 1970 with his marriage to Victoria Hartley. They built a small cottage on the shore of Preble Cove, adjacent to her parents' larger cottage, calling their new domicile "The Barn." He became an avid sailor, taking many cruises with his family along the Maine Coast. Chris is survived by his daughter Meg, who resides in Massachusetts, a son, Alex, his wife Kate Valenta, a granddaughter, Olivia, who all reside in New Jersey, and his sister-in-law, Holly Hartley of Berkeley, CA who similarly has resided summers on the island. His wife Vicky predeceased him.

Over the years Chris grew to love the Cranberry Islands. The Johnston's intention upon retirement around 2010 was to live year-round on the island. But they discovered after one winter of enduring the severe northwest winds blowing into Preble Cove (and through their un-insulated cottage!) that spending winters in downtown Portland in a newly purchased house was preferable. The house, one of the oldest standing residences in Portland, dated back to the early 1700's. Consequently, thereafter only the warmer weather months were spent on Great Cranberry Island. Chris lost his beloved Vicky when she passed away only several years after they moved to Portland.

Chris had always been interested, not only in the history of the islands, but also their overall future as sustainable year-round communities. He spent some time casting around looking for meaningful activities to occupy him and support the community. He and Vicky had been long-term members of the Congregational Church on the island, and he continued his active participation. He had an excellent singing voice and loved to sing during church services. Chris also became interested (with encouragement from friends Phil & Karin Whitney) in



becoming involved with both the Great Cranberry Island Historical Society, Cranberry House and the Cranberry Isles Realty Trust (CIRT). He became a Trustee and Secretary of GCIHS. He regularly worked as a volunteer at the museum reception desk, meeting and talking with visitors and relished telling stories of the island, especially pointing out to interested visitors the Wall of Fame photos showing his family members. He logged many happy hours giving informative historical tours to tourists while driving the Cranberry Explorer.

He was generally a quiet, kind person with a distinctive laugh. During GCIHS Trustees Meetings he rarely spoke but he became somewhat humorously notable for always being the first to "move to adjourn" the meetings. Chris was also a philanthropist. When the Cranberry House Fundraising Campaign to construct the new addition first began, he was the first person approached by Jessi Duma and myself to donate to the cause. Before we had even finished our opening sentence he wheeled around and handed us a check for \$100,000! We both thought, fundraising couldn't be *that* easy, but that was the kind of generous gentleman that Chris Johnston was. We will miss him.

GCIHS Summer Events

DARLENE SUMNER

Good Morning Cranberry

In the summer of 2019, several island teens conducted weekly interviews on their show “Good Morning Cranberry.” This was a fun way for the youth to learn new skills while also learning about the island!

We are pleased to announce that the videos have been uploaded and may be found on our YouTube link at gcihs.org.

If you are willing to be interviewed or have a teen with an interest in hosting a talk show, then please contact our volunteer youth coordinator Darlene Sumner at Darlene.sumner@gmail.com.

Darlene explains that this year she would like to turn the show over to a regular host and camera crew while she just monitors their success!

So, please get in contact with her if you have a teen that is interested!

2021 Great Cranberry Island Historical Society Lecture Series

Lectures will be held at 7:00 p.m. at Cranberry House every other Friday.

This will be an eight-week, eight-part lecture series facilitated by Laurie Dobson.

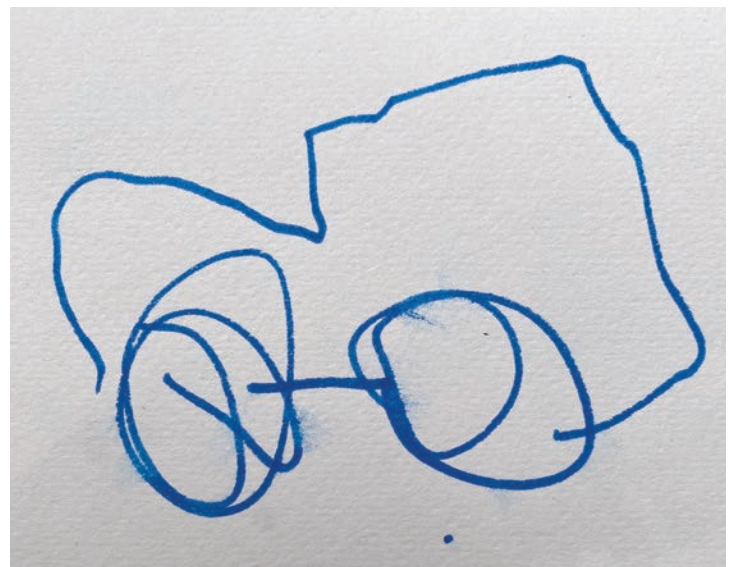
Speakers will present topics ranging from local interest to general interest for islanders and anyone who wishes to attend. Some of the lecture topics by local speakers, will include local education, beekeeping, fashion business, lobstering/oystering, farmsteading, sailing, and other subjects of interest.

To learn more, please contact Ms. Dobson at 207.602.8050.

Smart Shack Summer Activities

Dear Friends of the Cranberry House,
I am excited to once again offer a variety of activities in the youth’s craft and activity building known as the “Smart Shack.” If you have a talent you would like to share while on the island, please contact me as soon as possible. My email is Darlene.sumner@gmail.com. These activities can be out-and-about or inside the building. Looking forward to partnering with you to make this a fun filled summer for the island kids!

Sincerely,
Darlene Sumner



Tractor
Chalk on paper
Henry, age 3

Capital Campaign Update

JIM SINGERLING, CHAIR, CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE (RETIRED)

The Great Cranberry Island Historical Society Capital Campaign Committee is delighted to report that we have exceeded our campaign goal of \$450,000. We are so very grateful to the dozens of donors who supported the expansion of the museum exhibit areas and allowed for the archival offices to be enhanced with climate-controlled archive storage areas and state-of-the-art HVAC, emergency power, and fire mitigation systems installed. In addition, we have escrowed 20% of the funds raised to support current staffing needs as well as for future staffing support.

The Historical Society's future challenges will include raising the additional funding needed to complete the remaining interior construction of the third-floor meetings and exhibition space. This includes enhanced audio-visual equipment and lighting capability. These updates will be beneficial and improve the experience for our art exhibitions, community workshops and other gatherings of the broader island community.

GCIHS has a legacy forged from the generosity of many benefactors. Beginning with our creation and continuing through the present day, many have shown support for our efforts by giving their time and their resources in furtherance of the commitment of past island leaders who envisioned the value of GCIHS and its role to enhance life on our island community. As Chairman of this latest campaign committee, I will remain eternally grateful to all who believed in this mission, to leave the woodpile a little higher than we found it. The extended island community can be very proud of having achieved this milestone despite the challenges of this past year and one-half. We continue to be optimistic about our future.

We are excited for the 2021 season. The famous Hitty's Café is set to re-open on its new deck for another season. The Cranberry Explorer Shuttle (as volunteer drivers step forward) will make itself available for those who choose to ride. A fun variety of Smart Shack children's programs and many other amenities that will be available to this island community and its visitors.

Many of us will be on island this summer in hopes of creating another memorable chapter in our book of life on Cranberry. Molly and I wish you good health and happy times with both friends (old and new) as well as family as we all traverse Cranberry Road in the days ahead.

With gratitude and personal good wishes,

Jim Singerling
Chair
Campaign Committee (retired)

Great Cranberry Island Historical Society Capital Campaign

Pledges and Donors

As of May 22, 2021

We are so grateful for all of you
who have made three-year
pledges to our Capital Campaign.

If you have any questions
about the status of your pledge,
please contact:
Ben Sumner
General Manager
manager@gcihs.org

Anonymous (3)
Frederick Appell
Astor Street Foundation
Ingrid Avery
Marianne Avery
AWARE Foundation
Bass Harbor Yacht Club
Helen Bertles
Elaine Bishop & Mary Brown
James Bradley

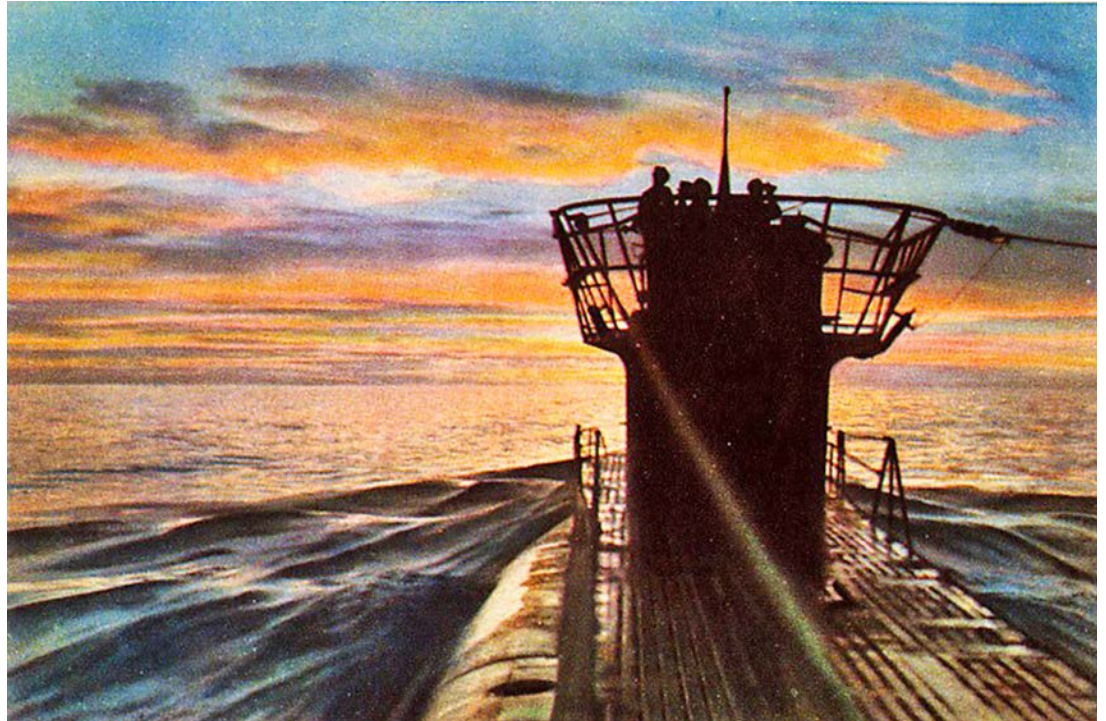
In Memory of Virginia Pugh Bradley
Stephen Bradley
In Memory of Pat Bradley
Buchanan Family Foundation
Elaine & Peter Buchsbaum
Katrina Lynn Carter
Gail Cleveland
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Karl & Mary Corley
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Timothy Dalton
Davis Family Foundation
Susan A. Dunn
Ken Dunton & Susan
Schonberg
Cathy Durham & Aaron Britt
Eric C.W. Dunn Charitable Fund
Anna Fernald
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Jean Fernald
John French
Richard & JoAnne Fuerst
Richard & Ingrid Gaither
James Gertmenian &
Sam King
Michael Glaser
Corinne Goodrich
Elizabeth Gordon
Gwendolen Elwell Flanagan
Foundation
Gordon Hardy & Alice Dunn
Holly Hartley
Heliker-Lahotan Foundation
Katherine Shorey Herold

Miriam Hinnant
Robert & Emily Howell
Jim & Cathy Ingham
In Memory of Hope Hamor Merrell
Chris Johnston
Nancy Jones
Sarah & Clay Jones
John L. Nicholas Kuczynski, IV
Pixie Lauer
Chong & Judith Lim
In Memory of Florence &
Herbert Towns
Lincoln & Ruth Lyman
Mickey MacFarlan Estate
Rick & Teri Malmstrom
Patrice Marshall
Armen & Fulvia Marsoobian
Boyne and Teri McHargue
David Milliken & Jill Drinkwater
Sharon Morrell
Alice Murphy & Bill Bancroft
Morrison Newell
Marvin & Emiline Ott
Richard Pierson
In Memory of Alice "Kitty" Pierson
Diane Polky
In Memory of Wini Smart
Henry Pugh
Henry Raup
Eileen Richards
Read Roberts & Monique Castiaux
Nathan Rome & Bonnie Alpert
Jan Russell
Beverly Sanborn
Ken Schmidt & Sue Hallett
Sea Winds 2nd Hand Shop
Gordon Shaw
In Memory of Mary G. Shaw
(friend of Sammy Sanford)
Charles Sheppard
In Memory of Winston Sheppard
Cindy Shulak-Rome & Dan Rome
Chris & Jessica Singerling
James & Molly Singerling
Joe Singerling
Robert & Lucille St. Germain

Ann & Dick Sullivan
Benjamin & Darlene Sumner
Susan A. Dunn Charitable Fund
The Little Family Trust
Michael & Lalie Tongour
John & Veronica Tyrrell
Kate Valenta & Alex Johnston
In Memory of Victoria H.
Johnston
Geoff Wadsworth & Sharon
Whitham
Laurie Wadsworth
In Memory of Charles
Wadsworth
Barbara & Don Weinreich
Michael & Jennifer Westphal
Ruth Westphal
In Honor of Gretchen, Jennifer,
& Michael Westphal
Phil & Karin Whitney
In Memory of Bruce Komusin
Thomas Williams
Sarah & Mark Williamson
The Wilson Family Foundation
Nancy & Cameron Wood
Brad & Elizabeth Woodworth
Joette Zarembo

*An artist's rendering of
a German U-boat on surface
at sunset.*

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE ELLSWORTH
AMERICAN AND COLLECTION OF
EARL BRECHLIN, JANUARY 9, 2012



be embellished, or at least unverifiable, as those who provided anecdotes have passed on, leaving no documentation to confirm or deny their stories. There is no denying, however, that there were numerous intriguing events happening in our little corner of the world. I leave it to your imagination to fill in the gaps left in these narratives.

My first personal connection with World War II and the Cranberry Isles came when I was approximately eight years old, in the late 1950's. I was visiting my grandparents, Elwood & Ella Spurling. My mother, Dorothy Spurling Whitney, also joined us for the weekend. A discussion somehow began concerning the nearby wartime activities of years ago. Both Nanna and Mom said it was fairly routine to hear big artillery guns way offshore at nighttime on otherwise quiet, windless nights. Sound carried more clearly across the water at night. Large convoys of United States ships, originating at major eastern US seaports, and carrying much-needed supplies to the allies, were heading up the East Coast. They would then curve eastward out across the North Atlantic destined for European ports. The German U-Boat submarines were determined to cut off and destroy these lifelines to Europe. The gunfire was probably more than twenty miles out to sea but according to the folks who heard them, the tremors created by the heavy artillery caused cracks in the upstairs bedroom ceilings. They pointed out these cracks to me. I cannot verify whether the cracks were in fact caused by the guns, but my grandmother and mother were the last people to exaggerate a story. They sincerely believed what they said.

Large convoys of United States ships, originating at major eastern US seaports, ... were heading up the East Coast. They would then curve eastward out across the North Atlantic destined for European ports. The German U-Boat submarines were determined to cut off and destroy these lifelines to Europe.



There was significant fear by American authorities that the Germans would try to land spies on the US mainland for whatever nefarious purposes could be imagined. Consequently, residents living on Great Cranberry Island and Islesford were required to have photo identification cards (a.k.a. local passports) to be shown whenever they came off the islands to Southwest Harbor, Northeast Harbor, Seal Harbor or wherever. The same apparently applied to islanders all up and down the coast of Maine. Both my grandparents had them. My grandmother hated her passport photo. The wartime officials' fears were proven valid, however, as will be described shortly.

When I was approximately twelve years old Captain Frank Faulkingham came into my parents' store, Whitney's Electric Service, in Southwest Harbor one summer day while I was working there. Frank was the last civilian lighthouse-keeper to serve on Baker Island before it became staffed by US Coast Guard personnel. This was in 1942. Frank told me a story that one night he heard some activity outside the keeper's house originating near the base of the adjacent light tower. He opened the front door and peaked outside. He claimed he saw a dozen German sailors armed with machine guns rummaging around the oil barrels at the base of the tower. He stated he quickly (and quietly) shut the door. His family was sleeping inside, and he feared waking them might lead to more serious problems. I did not get to ask him whether he contacted the Coast Guard Base at Southwest Harbor or some other wartime defense personnel. I also wondered at the time whether old Frank was telling a tall tale to a gullible kid. Some years later, I asked one of his daughters, the late Myrtle Faulkingham White, who was asleep in the house at the time, what she might have remembered of the incident. She said she knew nothing about it. Did Frank not tell them for fear of scaring them? Or did the whole affair not happen? I only learned many years later, when reading about German U-Boat activities along the East Coast, that it was fairly common for German submarines to surface and the crew to row ashore to isolated coastlines under cover of darkness and perhaps fog, to steal oil for their subs.

About the same time that Captain Frank related his story to me, I also had occasion to visit with May "Mom" Salisbury at her home in Seawall, which is a village in Southwest Harbor. "Mom" Salisbury's home was located near the shoreline with a full view of the Western Way and Great Cranberry Island beyond. I was approximately twelve years old in 1961 and she was in her 70's and very clear-headed. During World War II "Mom" was a Civil Defense Warden. Many of the women and older men volunteered to watch the coastlines and skies for enemy activity and report to military defense authorities any suspicious events. During routine conversation which covered many topics as she was quite a conversationalist, "Mom" related that one day during daylight hours she observed a German submarine enter the Western Way and proceed past her house. I had never heard any story like this before, and had difficulty believing her, although I was polite enough to keep a straight face. I don't remember if I asked what action she took upon observing the submarine.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Wayne Gilley of Manset was a teenager during World War II. He often went fishing with his father during those years. It should be noted that various types of fishing continued during the war, as folks had to eat, and mainland food supplies were usually rationed. Wayne passed away two years ago in his late 80's but shortly before his passing, Wayne related to me several anecdotes which lent credence to the previously related tales. He reported that Tommy Spurling, formerly of Great Cranberry, but later of Manset, was out lobster fishing one fine day (exact location not specified). Suddenly a German submarine surfaced beside his lobster boat. The Captain and Executive Officer appeared on deck. Both spoke perfect English. They reportedly inquired if they might have some lobsters. Spurling was agreeable, under the circumstances. Is this story true? Gilley was sincere in his belief that Spurling had told the truth, and Wayne included the story in public lectures on regional wartime activity that I attended. Wayne also remarked there were numerous sightings of submarines by offshore fishermen during the war, and written records confirm this. Wayne also claimed it was well known that German U-Boats not only went into the Great Harbor between Great Cranberry, Islesford and Southwest Harbor, but actually went up into Somes Sound within hundreds of feet of the US Coastguard Base at Clark Point. In those days the base was primarily a buoy tender facility, not a proactive law enforcement and defense station like today. Supposedly their purpose was to take on water at Man O' War Brook. But that story sounds like a real stretch since, even though Somes Sound is very deep there, any submarine would be vulnerable to US aircraft discovering it. It is also difficult to accept the stories of German submarine activity in the Western Way, which averages only 15-feet deep at mean low tide. Again, they would be very vulnerable to attack if discovered. But the eyewitness accounts were from very creditable people.

Wayne (Gilley) also claimed it was well known that German U-Boats not only went into the Great Harbor between Great Cranberry, Islesford and Southwest Harbor, but actually went up into Somes Sound within hundreds of feet of the US Coastguard Base at Clark Point.



In 1943, a large number of refugees from a ship sinking outside the Cranberries were quietly brought ashore in Southwest Harbor and transported to the Pemetic High School gym, where they remained overnight. They were then transported to an unknown destination. The whole affair was kept under wraps. To date there are few details known about the incident. The primary reason for secrecy was, as similar to the above stories, the US Government did not want to possibly panic the citizenry if they discovered the war was at their doorsteps.

On the night of July 2nd, 1944, the US Navy airship K-14, a submarine surveillance blimp, was allegedly shot down just east of Mount Desert Rock. The incident occurred late in the evening, but rescue crews did not locate the wreckage and several survivors until early the next morning due to fog conditions. Wayne Gilley remembered that he and his father were out fishing when they saw a blimp pass overhead, only several hundred feet above them. The propellers made quite a noise. The blimp travelled out over Great Cranberry Island. Shortly after, they heard what sounded like machine gun rapid-fire in the direction of Baker Island. They were not in a position to see anything. They could only hear the action. They later learned the airship had crashed.

K-14 survivor being helped ashore.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES



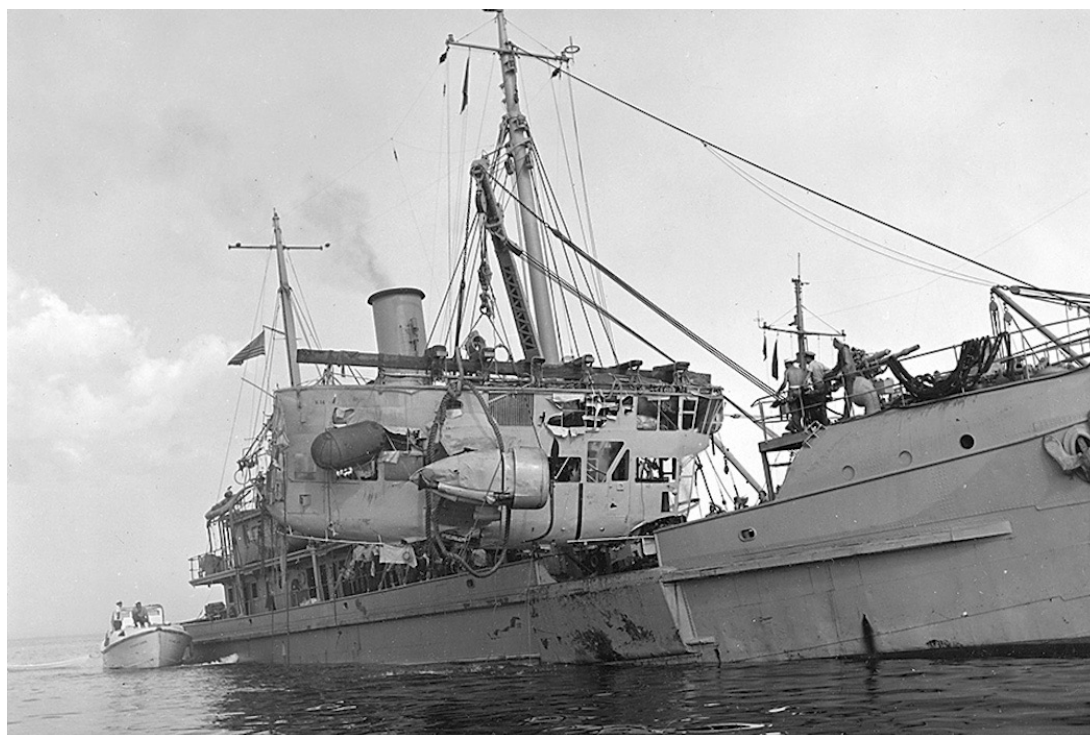
The wreckage of the blimp was towed into Bunker's Cove at Islesford, rather than a Mount Desert locale, to avoid attracting crowds of curious onlookers. A number of bodies were removed from the wreckage. A Naval Review Board ruled the cause of the crash was probably pilot error, although there were obvious bullet holes found in the airship fabric and other fishermen in the vicinity reported gunfire and explosions. To this day, the US Navy will not acknowledge an enemy action occurred, and records remain sealed and classified, even after repeated Freedom of Information requests.

In November 1944 in unclassified reports documenting the event, German U-Boat U-1230 spent more than one week lurking off Mount Desert Rock waiting for an opportune time to slip into Frenchman's Bay off Bar Harbor underwater. Supposedly they lay on the ocean bottom undetected while a US destroyer passed overhead. They eventually proceeded to an isolated section of Hancock Point, where they dropped off two spies. Unfortunately for the spies, they were dressed like city-slickers, walking the snowy back roads of Hancock County. They were separately spotted by two locals, who noted their suspicious presence and called local law enforcement. The FBI entered the case and followed them to New York City where they were eventually apprehended.

**Wayne Gilley
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feet above them.
The propellers made
quite a noise.
The blimp
travelled out over
Great Cranberry
Island.**



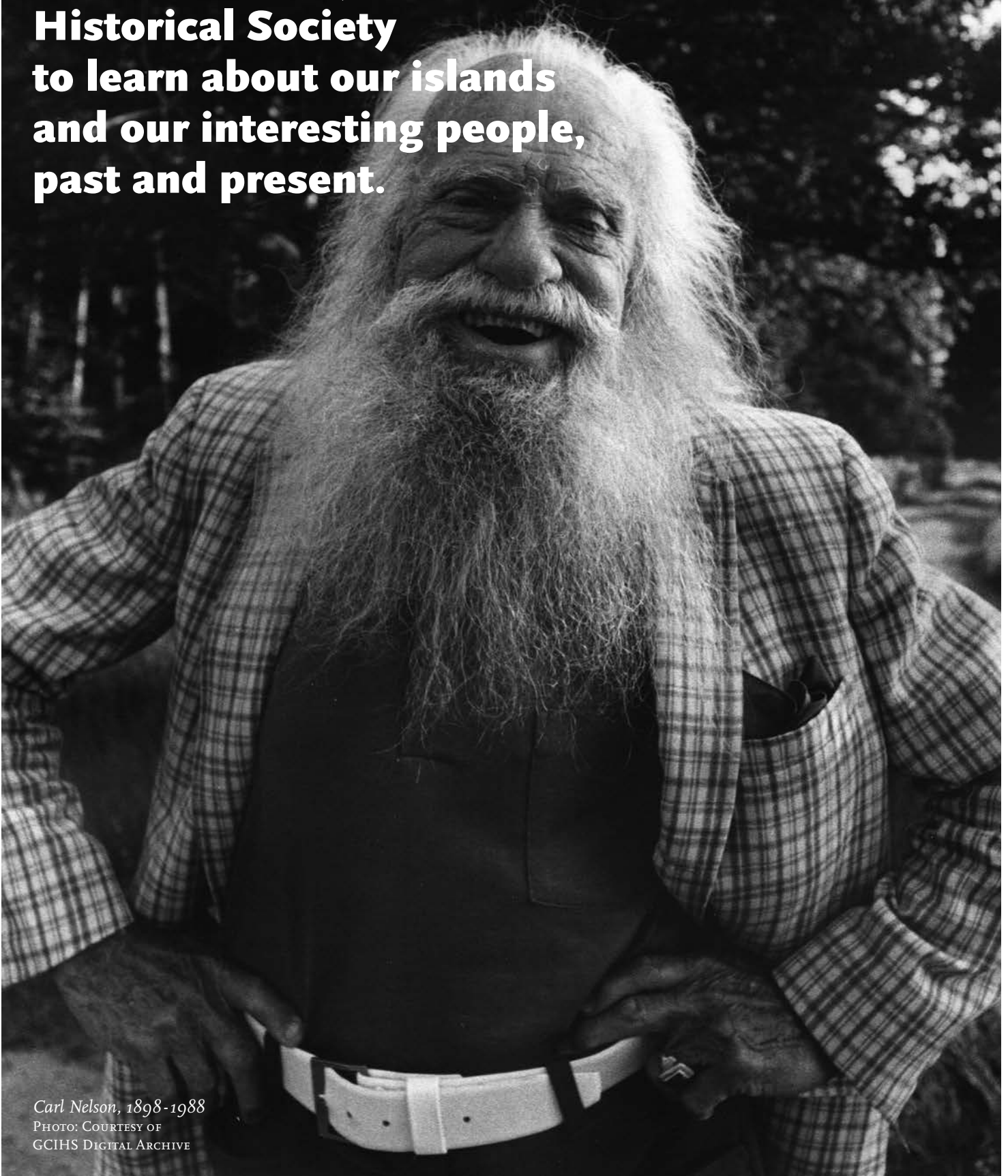
These are just some of the stories of World War II and the Cranberry Isles. I only wish I had realized as a youngster how historically significant these stories would be to us all. I would have made greater efforts to track down other witnesses to these wartime activities. Now everyone with first-hand knowledge is gone and their stories have mostly disappeared with them.



*US Navy recovery of the
downed K-14 blimp.*

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

**Please visit
Great Cranberry Island
Historical Society
to learn about our islands
and our interesting people,
past and present.**



Carl Nelson, 1898-1988
PHOTO: COURTESY OF
GCIHS DIGITAL ARCHIVE

Welcome back to Hitty's Café!

As we all know, last year was difficult for everyone as the pandemic hit. Here at the café, during the summer of 2020, our opening was delayed until the end of June and visitors were restricted. We closed early in October. The shorter season and the issues of masking and social distancing proved a real challenge for our little café.

We are enthusiastic about the 2021 season and enjoyed our usual opening on Memorial Day weekend. There is much to be thankful for and we even have a great new deck out front! Thank you so much for supporting the café last year and we look forward to seeing you here this summer.

Chef Cézar

Curry Chicken Salad

Ingredients

1/2 cup Mayonnaise
1 – 2 tsp. Curry powder
a pinch of Salt, more to taste
2 cups Cooked chicken diced or shredded
1/2 Medium apple with peel, diced
1 Celery rib, finely diced
2 tbsp. Red onion, finely diced
1/4 cup Raisins
1/4 cup Cashews roughly chopped

Instructions

Step 1

In a medium bowl mix together the mayonnaise, curry powder and salt.

Step 2

Next add the cooked chicken, diced apple, celery, and onions and stir until well combined.

Step 3

Fold in the raisins, cashews.

Step 4

Serve in a lettuce wrap, on a bed of greens or in a tortilla wrap or between slices of your favorite bread.

Small World Story

PHIL WHITNEY

Shortly after retirement from the Diplomatic Security Service in 2001, I was back doing some contractor work. I wound up on the island nation of Mauritius in the middle of the Indian Ocean for one week working with a fellow from Burlington, Vermont. We were having dinner one night at a restaurant when conversation turned for some forgotten reason to World War II. I remarked off-hand that my dad spent World War II at MIT in a top-secret research section known as Radiation Laboratory. The other fellow stated that was very interesting, since his dad had also worked at the same laboratory during the war. He noted that his dad was still living but sadly, my dad had passed away. He was able to contact his father andyes, discovered that he had worked with my dad and remembered him well. This was sixty years later, and the connection emanated from a casual remark made on a remote island in a far-off corner of the world.

The following night we met for dinner again at a restaurant. Our conversation about the war years and aftermath continued. I told him how my dad had returned to Southwest Harbor from MIT after the war and continued to operate Whitney's Electric Service, his electrical contracting and appliance sales business. My friend then related that his dad had transferred over to Harvard University in some capacity. He remarked that Harvard University used to have a summer cottage "somewhere up along the coast of Maine on an island." It was used in a time-share type operation for its professors. His father had stayed at the cottage on several different occasions over the decades. My friend continued, that when he got married, they joined his father for part of their honeymoon on the island. I responded, quite numb by this time over our strange conversations, that he was referring to the "Harvard Cottage" on Suttons Island and that I could see the house and dock from our town dock on Great Cranberry Island and that I was very familiar with that cottage, as my dad had, for decades, made many electrical service calls to the property. As a youngster, I often accompanied him out there. That was our last dinner conversation before returning to the USA. I'm not sure what other small world discovery we could have made if a third night of reminiscing over dinner and wine had been possible.

End of the World

MIRIAM HINANT

About seven years ago I was in Ushuaia on the southernmost tip of South America on my way to Antarctica. Ushuaia advertises itself as "fin del mundo," end of the world. One day I was walking in a park, wearing a Cranberry Island sweatshirt. A woman came up to me and asked if I had been to Great Cranberry Island, and then asked if I knew any people there. She then specifically asked if I knew Rob Liebow. She had met him in college and remembered about Great Cranberry Island.

Great Cranberry is known even at the end of the world!

**Do you have a small world story
you would like to share?**

**We would love to include it in
an upcoming edition.**

Email us at info@gcihs.org or send a note to:

**Great Cranberry Island Historical Society
P.O. Box 12, Cranberry Isles, Maine 04625**

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Sunrise over The Pool, Great Cranberry Island

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